

Story 1553 (1992 Tape 2)

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Location: Derinkuyu, kaza town
in Nevşehir Province

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Nasreddin Hoca¹ Remains Faithful to His Word

One day some acquaintances of Nasreddin Hoca asked him,
How old are you, Hoca?"

Nasreddin replied, "I am forty years old."

Five or six years passed. Then one day some of the same
people again asked the Hoca's age. "How old are you, Hoca?"

"I am forty years old," he answered

But those among the people who had asked him that same
question six years earlier objected. They said, "Hoca, how
can that be? Six years ago when we asked you your age, you
said that you were forty years old. Now you claim that you
are still forty. How can that be?"

The Hoca answered very calmly, "If a man is honest, he
will not go back on his word.

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a com-
munity. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the commun-
ity teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic
required that teachers be people of secular rather than of
religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular
comic folk character.